Caranga -
Chipaya

/111 cont./

Forward

12
[101]
[119] In the following pages I propose to set forth the observations that I have been able to make on the social organization, religion and material life of the Uro-Čipaya /Uru-Chipaya/ Indians among whom I lived in the course of an expedition carried out on the Bolivian Altiplano during the summers of 1930 and 1931. I had
123 singular luck during my entire stay. I happened to be there at the very moment when these Indians have most of their festivals, and luck having enabled me to be present at the first one, the Čipaya convinced of my respectful sentiments and enchanted by my distributing coca and alcohol, were not afraid to take me /112/
124 to the following ones. I was aided in my investigation by an Aymara interpreter whom I had brought with me from Oruro and who displayed a zeal which I would never have expected from a member of his race. He served continually /Map 1 appears here/ as intermediary for me with the Čipaya and began conducting inquiries on his own, the results of which he communicated to me. Without him it would have been very difficult for me to discover the meaning of the prayers and sacred formulas which I gathered.
91 Although the Čipaya all speak Aymara fluently they know very little Spanish. Those who do gabble it /113/ are neither the most gifted nor the best informed on things of the past, and I would have had pitiful informants in them.

121 A still longer period of contact with the Čipaya would barely, I fear, have brought me new facts. When I left these Indians they had celebrated before me practically the entire cycle of their main festivals, and in order to participate in the next one I would
[183] have had to wait nearly six months. Their ritual is in any case very scanty: all the ceremonies, no matter what the subject, unfold according to a plan which is always the same. As for actual
• 198 religious beliefs, I strongly doubt that a closer intimacy with these Indians would have brought me new discoveries. We should not forget that the Čipaya number only a handful, that they have been

[TEXT CONTINUES ON P. 5]